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Romanian-Bulgarian cross-border cooperation under Capacity 2015

UNDP project "Capacity Development for Reaching the Millennium Development Goals through Fostering Cross-Border Cooperation between Bulgaria and Romania" is officially launched. The project seeks to strengthen and enhance operational capacities on both sides of the border in joint participatory strategic planning. Furthermore, It aims at promoting cross-border cooperation between Romania and Bulgaria based on the successful experience and lessons derived from the Local Agenda 21 implementation process.

The outcome of the project will be the formulation of two regional development strategies for Giurgiu-Russe area (tourism) and for Zimnicea-Svishtov area (ferryboat transportation). Accordingly, two Memoranda of Understanding for city-to-city cooperation related to project implementation were signed: one between Ms. Eugenia Mariana Cazacu, Deputy Mayor of Giurgiu and Mr. Valeri Andreev Andreev, Deputy Mayor of Russe and another between Mr. Petre Parvu, Mayor of Zimnicea and Mr. Stanislav Dimitrov, Deputy Mayor of Svishtov.

National and regional partners of the project who attended the signing ceremony are: representatives of the Municipal Councils of the four cities, local NGOs and private sector, as well as the national and local media. The Romanian official delegation included Ms. Soknan Han Jung, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Maria Crivineanu, Secretary of State of the Ministry of European Integration, Ms. Corina Hopartean, Executive Director, Romanian Federation of Local Authorities, and Mr. Adrian Stefancu, Financial Director, Romanian Federation of Local Authorities. Bulgaria was represented by Ms. Minna Tyrkko, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, Ms. Petia Gegova, Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Public Works, and Ms. Maria Pavlova, Executive Director of the Association of Danube River Municipalities.

The two Strategies that will address the shared development priorities of the partner municipalities, are expected to provide the framework that will facilitate the mobilization of resources for cross-border cooperation initiatives.

Giurgiu-Russe project will design a joint tourism development strategy and a common website containing information on existing tourist sites and facilities. The objective of the initiative is to propose an integrated tourist product to Danube leisure cruise tourists. Zimnicea-Svishtov project will support the preparation of an economic and technical feasibility study for a ferryboat service with the objective of attracting private investors.

The partners in the project implementation are the Romanian Ministry of European Integration and the Bulgarian Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works. "Designing and implementing joint projects will contribute to an effective exchange of knowledge and experience and to a broader partnership between the four cities, respective Euroregions", stated Ms. Jung, UNDP Resident Representative in Romania.

For more information, please contact UNDP Romania's Socio-Economic section at socio@undp.ro.



*Signing of the two Memoranda.
From top: Russe-Giurgiu and
Svishtov-Zimnicea.*



Leisure and commercial boats on the Danube.